

civilians at Mountain Home Air Force Base for their incredible work serving and protecting our Nation.●

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. KERRY. Madam President, today I honor the distinguished 70-year history of the National Small Business Association. This member-driven organization continues to take the lead on important issues facing small businesses and is the oldest small business advocacy group in the United States. It is especially fitting that we recognize this organization during National Small Business Week.

The NSBA can trace its founding back to DeWitt M. Emery, a determined small business owner struggling to keep his business running in the midst of the Great Depression. As owner of the Monroe Letterhead Corporation in Akron, OH, Mr. Emery labored to keep his small business running while feeling burdened by the increasing cost of doing business—including higher material costs and wages.

Frustrated by the lack of support for small businesses in national politics, and inspired by an idea to make his and his peers' voices heard, Mr. Emery founded the National Small Business Men's Association on November 13, 1937. One hundred sixty small business owners out of 200 who received Mr. Emery's recruitment letter joined the organization that now boasts a reach of over 150,000 small businesses.

In keeping with the organization's responsiveness to the ever-changing small business climate, and to be more inclusive of the growing number of women small business owners, the group changed its name in 1962 to the National Small Business Association.

In 1986, the organization changed its name again to National Small Business United when it joined with Small Business United, or SBU, a rival organization that started 5 years earlier. SBU and its member groups, such as the Smaller Business Association of New England, or SBANE, helped establish the current organization's vast network of small business affiliates. After the merger, the new organization became responsible for running the SBANE-created Washington Presentation. In addition to SBANE, some of the other NSBA affiliates are the Arizona Small Business Association, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Missouri Merchants and Manufacturers Association, SMC Business Councils, Council of Smaller Enterprises and Small Business California. Thanks to its strong affiliates NSBA has emerged as a vibrant grassroots organization.

In 2003, the oldest small business advocacy group changed its name back to the National Small Business Association. Through its name changes and merger, the organization's commitment to representing small business owners has been unwavering, and to-

day's group boasts a wide variety of members from carpenters to investors, from manufacturers to grocers. NSBA truly represents the diversity of our Nation's small businesses. As chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I work with NSBA's members in my State and across the Nation, welcoming their insights and unique perspective.

I find it important to note that today's small business owners struggle with some of the same issues that plagued Mr. Emery in 1937, and many new issues. From access to capital to health care, we will continue to work with small businesses as they strive to maintain and grow their firms—and as they make a significant contribution to our economy. Through the efforts of advocacy groups like the NSBA working with us to pass legislation, we have been able to assist thousands of determined small business owners like Mr. Emery. The tireless work of the NSBA is testament to the resolve and spirit of small business owners, and I am gratified that the current organization leads the charge on many important issues. I invite the Senate to join me in honoring NSBA and its distinguished history of nonpartisan work on behalf of small businesses.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1257. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation.

H.R. 1495. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Speaker removes Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, as a conferee and appoints Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, to fill the vacancy thereon, on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1591) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. WELLER of Illinois, Mr. DREIER of California, Mr. MACK of Florida, and Mr. FORTUNO of Puerto Rico.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, clause 10 of rule 1, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints

the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois, Mr. McCOTTER of Michigan, Mr. STEARNS of Florida, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1003. An act to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

H.R. 1130. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to extend the authority to withhold from public availability a financial disclosure report filed by an individual who is a judicial officer or judicial employee, to the extent necessary to protect the safety of the individual or a family member of that individual, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 865. An act to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1257. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1593. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army that is identified as being case number 04-07; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1594. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Donald J. Wetekam, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1595. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1596. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 17426) received on April 18, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.